

In the Specification

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please amend page 8, lines 26-33, as follows:

Fig. 5 shows a transmission system, comprising an encoder/modulator 50, a channel 52 and a decoder 54. Decoder 54 comprises a demodulator 540, a de-interleaver 542 and an error correction unit 544 in series with one another. A rate control unit 546 controls error correction unit 544 and de-interleaver 542 ~~dependent on~~ independent of a puncture rate. Channel 52 may have any nature: it may be the ether, in case of wireless transmission or it may be a storage medium on which the modulated signal is stored, for example. Encoder 50 is of a type that applies a predetermined type of interleaving information and parity bits prior to puncturing, for example an encoder of the type shown in Fig. 1 or 4.